4. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is increased or decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured as a function of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp.

5. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured as a function of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp, wherein said fluorescence of efp is measured and compared to the fluorescence intensity of efp in the presence of the compound, wherein a decrease in fluorescence intensity indicates binding of efp.

6. (Amended twice) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound which increases the activity of efp increases the activity of other protein(s) essential for the functioning of efp.

7. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound that increases the activity of efp increases the activity of L16 protein.

8. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by a binding assay selected from the group consisting of gel electrophoresis, Western blot, filter binding, and scintillation proximity assay.

15. (Amended twice) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a natural source.

16. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a prokaryotic organism.

17. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria.

18. (Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, and an *Enterococcus* species.

141. (Amended) A method of modulating the activity of L16 protein comprising contacting said L16 protein in association with efp with an oxazolidinone compound, wherein said L16 protein in association with efp is in a cell or cell preparation.

142. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is increased or decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured as a function of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp.

143. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured as a function of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp, wherein said fluorescence of efp is measured and compared to the fluorescence intensity of efp in the presence of the compound, wherein a decrease in fluorescence intensity indicates binding of efp.

144. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound which decreases the activity of efp increases the activity of other protein(s) essential for the functioning of efp.

145. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound that decreases the activity of efp decreases the activity of L16 protein.

146. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by a binding assay selected from the group consisting of gel electrophoresis, Western blot, filter binding, and scintillation proximity assay.

147. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a natural source.

148. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a prokaryotic organism.

149. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria.

150. (New Claim) A method for identifying a compound that decreases the activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, and an *Enterococcus* species.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 15-18, 140 and 141 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled herein. Claims 4-8, 15-18, and 141 have been amended herein. New claims 142-150 have also been added herein. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 4-8, 15-18, 140-150 will be pending. Applicants have amended all claims to be independent. **Because the amendments to the claims remove issues for appeal (*i.e.*, indefiniteness and enablement), Applicants respectfully request that they be entered into the record. See, M.P.E.P. § 714.12.**